

# Nanticoke Partnership Agreement

Among  
The State of Delaware, The State of Maryland,  
Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail and National Park Service

**WHEREAS,** The Nanticoke River is shared by the State of Delaware and the State of Maryland. It is the largest watershed in Delaware and one of the largest Chesapeake Bay tributaries on the Delmarva Peninsula;

**WHEREAS,** Rich in historic and cultural assets, the River flows through Delaware and Maryland in a region that hosts some of the most biologically diverse natural habitats including maritime forests, expansive Atlantic white cedar and bald cypress wetlands, and globally rare plant and wildlife species;

**WHEREAS,** The Nanticoke River is a premier component of the newly established Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (NHT) and appears much the same as it did when Captain Smith explored the river 400 years ago, in June, 1608; and,

**WHEREAS,** In order to ensure the stewardship of this tremendous natural and cultural resource, the States of Delaware and Maryland, the Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail and the National Park Service agree to work together in a coordinated effort with federal, local and state agencies and local and regional organizations to achieve collaborative goals of a healthy and productive Nanticoke River;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** we the undersigned representing the State of Delaware, State of Maryland, the Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail, and the National Park Service agree that we will collaborate to:

- Identify and implement the best management practices for the protection, restoration and enhancement of the Nanticoke watershed’s natural, historic and cultural resources;
- Identify potential new Gateway sites and connecting trails complementing the Nanticoke River and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail;
- Enhance interpretation of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Nanticoke River’s natural, historic and cultural resources, including:
  1. Publication of the Nanticoke River Water Trail map and guide highlighting river access points and facilities, points of interest, important wildlife and habitat areas, historical sites, and scenic and unique natural areas;
  2. Publication of the Nanticoke River Water Trail and Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail on web sites;
  3. Publication of “The Nanticoke River Explorers Welcome: 400 Years Ago & Today,” brochure;
  4. Exploring opportunities for the establishment of a Chesapeake Bay Interpretative Buoy at the MD-DE boundary;
  5. Planning and implementation of a signage program for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, in cooperation with the National Park Service.
- Foster environmental education and stewardship opportunities for residents, schools, area businesses, organizations, visitors and recreation users.
- Honor the history, heritage and culture of the American Indians along the Nanticoke River;
- Enhance public access and land conservation along the Nanticoke River and its tributaries;
- Identify opportunities to improve low-impact recreational activities along the River; and
- Continue the shad restoration and other cooperative conservation initiatives.

By this Agreement, we will work toward our goals in a spirit open to others, welcome new ideas, encourage collaborative approaches, and always be committed to the common goal of a healthy and productive Nanticoke River.

/s/  
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John A. Hughes, Secretary  
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

/s/  
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John R. Griffin, Secretary  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles A. Stek, President  
Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail

/s/  
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John Maounis, Superintendent, National Park Service  
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

